EU IN THE WORLD UPDATE

Council of the EU: The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 26 April in Luxembourg and on 10 May in Brussels.

In April, the FAC adopted conclusions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (see below) and on Sudan, Burma and Kyrgyzstan. It also discussed next steps in the implementation of the EU Action Plan for Enhanced Engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan and took note of the first six-monthly report on this issue. Finally, it adopted a series of restrictive measures against certain persons and entities in Somalia.

In May, the FAC discussed the situation in Iran, nuclear issues, gender equality and development; and the prosecution of suspected pirates captured by ships taking part in Operation EU NAVFOR Atalanta. It also continued its discussions on the EU's relations with its strategic partners and held a policy debate to prepare the EU's position for the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) review summit which will take place in September 2010 in New York. Finally, the FAC approved a report on the EU's policies and actions in the field of human from July 2008 to December 2009.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) also met on 26 April in Luxembourg and on 10 May in Brussels.

In April, the GAC agreed on a proposal for the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) (see below). It also approved a report on ways to improve co-operation in combating organised crime, especially drug trafficking, originating in West Africa; and adopted conclusions on tackling violence against women and on the European Court of Auditors’ Special Report on EU assistance implemented through United Nations organisations.

In May, the GAC discussed preparations for the next meeting of the European Council which will take place on 17 June in Brussels. (NB/ The European Council is expected to focus on, inter alia, the upcoming review of the MDGs.) The GAC also adopted directives for the negotiation of association agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Click here to download the FAC conclusions and here to download the GAC conclusions.

European External Action Service: During the May meeting of the GAC, EU ministers reached a political agreement on the establishment of the EEAS based on the proposal which was published by the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, on 25 March. The proposal is currently being discussed by the European Parliament.

CSDP missions: The EU Somalia Training Mission (EUTM) was launched on 7 April. The EU's latest military mission will contribute to training of Somali security forces in Uganda.

During its April meeting, the FAC adopted conclusions on the EU's ongoing CSDP missions. It also adopted conclusions on the development of civilian and military capabilities; security sector reform (SSR), small arms and light weapons (SALW); gender and human rights; conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue; training, lessons learned and partnerships with the United Nations, NATO and the African Union.

On 18 May, the Council adopted a decision to extend the EU's police training mission in Afghanistan for a period of three years from 31 May 2010 until 31 May 2013.

For more information about CSDP missions, please contact Sanne Tielemans.

European Parliament: The European Parliament had plenary sessions on 19-21 April and 17-20 May in Strasbourg and on 5-6 May in Brussels. MEPs adopted resolutions on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, EU Policy Coherence for Development and the "ODA plus" concept; the European Investment Bank's annual report for 2008 and the EU strategy for relations with Latin America (For more information, see the 'EU Documents' section on p. 4).

For more information about events in the European Parliament, please contact Ben Moore.
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON PEACEBUILDING AND STATEBUILDING

Background
During the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 3) which took place in September 2008 in Accra, it was acknowledged that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would not be achieved in many conflict-affected countries without more coherent national and international actions on peacebuilding and statebuilding. As a result of HLF 3, an international dialogue on peacebuilding and statebuilding was formally launched on 4 December 2008 in Paris.

The International Dialogue involves various donors and their partner countries and is supported by the secretariat of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INGAF). It is co-led by a senior partner from an OECD country and a partner country.

The International Dialogue meeting
This first global meeting of the International Dialogue, which was hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste on 9-10 April 2010, provided a real opportunity for countries affected by conflict and fragility to engage in open and frank dialogue with donor governments and civil society on key peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities, bottlenecks and good practice.

The first day of the meeting was devoted to sharing country experiences, based on the main findings from a series of country consultations which were conducted in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor-Leste on peacebuilding and statebuilding. The focus of the second day was on emerging priorities, global perspectives on peacebuilding and statebuilding; and agreeing on the way forward.

Civil Society and the International Dialogue
Prior to the conference, EPLO member organisation Interpeace conducted a rapid consultative process called ‘Fast Talk’ to gather the views of almost 50 civil society organisations (CSOs), including eight EPLO member organisations and the EPLO Office, on the issues of peacebuilding and statebuilding. The key observations from the Fast Talk consultation were summarised in a background paper.

The EPLO Office and several EPLO member organisations (Conciliation Resources, International Alert, Interpeace and Search for Common Ground) were present at the International Dialogue meeting and a number of issues which they raised were included in the final outcome document: the Dili Declaration (see below).

Outcomes
- The Dili Declaration which includes a list of eight actions to help accelerate progress on peacebuilding and statebuilding and a commitment to develop an international action plan for delivering more effective support to peacebuilding and statebuilding before the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 4) in November 2011.
- The establishment of a permanent forum of the “g7+” group of conflict- and fragility-affected countries (Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, South Sudan and Timor-Leste)
- A “g7+” statement (attached to the Dili Declaration)

A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE ON STATEBUILDING IN POST-CONFLICT AFRICA

By Dr Didier Péclard, Senior Researcher, swisspeace

Academic and policy research about Africa has been dominated in recent years by discourses about purported "state failure". Incapable of providing basic services to their citizens, challenged in their monopoly over legitimate violence, contested by armed rebellion, states in Africa have been portrayed in virtually pathological terms as being threatened by "collapse", as endemically "fragile" and "weak", and as degenerating into nightmarish "shadow" or "quasi" states void of legitimacy, administrative capacity and actual presence on the ground.

Unquestionably, states in Africa have problems. However, the difficulty with the ‘failed state’ discourse is that it rests on very normative understandings of states by measuring up degrees of statehood (from "collapsed" to "fragile" to "weak", etc.) against an idealised Western model which is taken as the norm. Thus, states in Africa are defined by the negative, i.e., for what they fail to be in comparison to the Western model, instead of for what they actually are and for the ways in which statehood is given shape on the ground.

With its work on ‘statehood and conflict’ swisspeace proposes instead to take states in Africa seriously, that is, as objects of research in their own right, and not as ‘failed’ by-products of European colonialism. To do so, we suggest looking at ways in which statehood is 'negotiated' on the ground by a variety of actors – official state representatives and others – and how power relationships crystallise in everyday confrontations and encounters at various levels (local, national and international).

For instance, research currently underway in South Sudan shows how the state is ‘present-absent’ in rural areas. Present in the sense that the process of state building brought state representatives physically into every village, but absent because many of the state services are actually provided by international donors or other non-state actors. In that context, informal networks play a crucial role, not only in the distribution of political and financial resources, but also in linking up the central state and its periphery. Government and administrative institutions are dominated by the Sudan people’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). At the same time, other networks based on ethnicity, clan and family, civil society and the diaspora, overlap and are interlinked with the state. Generally, individuals belong to several of these networks at once. It is often through such networks that private or public resources are distributed and services brought to the grassroots level.

Understanding how statehood is produced by the interactions between these networks, clans and social groups is not only crucial for research but it also has important implications for policy makers.

For more information, please contact Didier Péclard.
SEMINAR: ‘STATEBUILDING AT THE HEART OF CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING’

On 27 April, the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy co-organised a seminar on ‘Statebuilding at the Heart of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding’ at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU in Brussels.

The event was the latest in the ‘Conflict Prevention in Practice’ programme – a two-year programme organised in close co-operation with the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, the European Commission and EPLO, aimed at increasing the capacity of the EU institutions and EU Member States to prevent violent conflict by strengthening conflict sensitivity, enhancing political dialogue with major partners, and sharing expertise in a variety of fields.

Ambassador Carlos Fernandez-Arias, Chair of the EU’s Political and Security Committee, gave the opening remarks. These were followed by welcome statements from Ambassador Ragnar Ångeby, Director of the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme at the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Catherine Woollard, Executive Director of EPLO, and Daniel Fiott, Research Fellow from the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation.

Following the introductory session, Helga Schmidt, Director of the Policy Unit in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, gave an opening address in which she reminded participants of the goals which the EU set itself in the 2001 Gothenburg Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts as well as of the opportunity which the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) presents for increasing the effectiveness of the EU’s approach to statebuilding.

The objective of the first panel was to provide an overview of the concept and challenges of statebuilding. It was moderated by Robert Parker, Head of Policy and Advocacy at EPLO member organisation Saferworld, and included presentations from Stephan Massing, Policy Analyst from the OECD’s International Network on Conflict and Fragility, Marc Van Bellinghen, Deputy Head of the Crisis Response and Peacebuilding Unit in the European Commission’s Directorate-General for External Relations, Nat Colletta, independent consultant and former manager of the World Bank’s Post-Conflict Unit, and Luis Carnasa, Judicial Coordinator from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The second panel discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities of statebuilding and took as a case Guinea-Bissau. It was moderated by Gabi Hesselbein, Research Fellow from the Development Studies Institute at the London School of Economics and included presentations from Fafali Koudawo, Director of EPLO member organisation In-terpeace’s ‘Voice of Peace’ programme in Guinea Bissau, Ambassador Mutaboba, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Guinea Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, and Filiberto Ceriani-Sebregondi, Head of the unit responsible for relations with West Africa in the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Development.

The challenges and opportunities of statebuilding in Guatemala formed the basis of the third panel discussion. Moderated by María Luisa Huidobro Martín-Laborda, Deputy Director-General for Peacekeeping Operations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, this panel included presentations from Claudia Samayo, Coordinator of the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders from the National Human Rights Movement of Guatemala, Julia Schünemann, Researcher at EPLO member organisation FRIDE, and Lucia Montanaro, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding Issues at EPLO member organisation International Alert.

The final panel discussion focused on the need for and challenges related to statebuilding and dialogue with socioeconomic actors. It was moderated by Angel Vidal, independent consultant and former official from the International Labour Organisation, and included presentations from Jan van Elst, Head of the Development and African, Caribbean and Pacific states Unit in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, Bernd Papenkorst, Southeast Europe Regional Coordinator for the Oxford Leadership Academy, Dwight Justice, Policy Advisor at the International Trade Union Confederation, and Diana Klein, Project Manager in International Alert’s Economic and Peacebuilding Team.

Ambassador Ångeby gave the closing remarks before handing over to Koen Dassen, Minister Counsellor from the Belgian Delegation to the EU’s Political and Security Committee, who closed the seminar with some thoughts on the possible structure of the EEAS and an invitation to participants to take part in the next event in the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme which will take place during the Belgian Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2010.

A more detailed report of the seminar will be available in the coming weeks via the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation website.

For more information about the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme, please contact Anna Widerpalm from the Folke Bernadotte Academy or Daniel Fiott from the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation.

EPLO Office

Catherine Woollard: Executive Director
Josephine Liebl: Policy Officer
Ben Moore: Policy Officer
Sanne Tielemans: Policy Officer
Najoua Sbai: Administrative Officer

Want to know what’s happening at EPLO?

Click here for more information about upcoming events and recent publications.

Blog!

EPLO has a blog. Click here to read the latest posts.

Need help?

Do you have any questions about the EU and peacebuilding? Click here to contact the EPLO Helpdesk.
**EU Documents**

**CFSP / High Representative (HR) / President of the European Council**

31 May – Declaration by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the Israeli military operation against the Flotilla
26 May – Co-Chair’s Statement: 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting
24 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the Federal Republic of Nigeria
21 May – Statement by HR Ashton on Nagorno Karabakh
21 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the political situation in Thailand
19 May – Joint Communiqué: EU-Central America Summit
18 May – Declaration: EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit
18 May – Press Release: EU confirms willingness to participate in International Monitoring Team in Mindanao, Philippines
17 May – Statement by HR Ashton on Moldova/Transnistria
16 May – Joint Statement: Fifth EU-Mexico Summit
14 May – Statement by HR Ashton on Kyrgyzstan
12 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the State of Emergency in Egypt
11 May – Joint Communiqué: 10th EU-South Africa Ministerial Political Dialogue Meeting
11 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the adoption of negotiating directives for Association Agreements between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
10 May – Declaration by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the launch of proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinians
10 May – Press Release: Human rights and democracy in the world
5 May – Press Statement: EU-Canada Summit
4 May – Speech by HR Ashton at the UN Security Council

**Council**

30 April – Council Decision of […] on the signature, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement amending for the second time the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 as first revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005

**Commission**

3 May – Proposal for a Council Decision of […] concerning the allocation of the funds decommitted from projects under the 9th and previous European Development Funds (EDF) for the purpose of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population in Sudan
21 April – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions: A twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals
9 April – Annual Report on Humanitarian Aid Policy and its Implementation in 2009

**Parliament**

20 May – European Parliament resolution on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus
20 May – European Parliament resolution on the Union for the Mediterranean
18 May – European Parliament resolution on the EU Policy Coherence for Development and the "ODA plus" concept
5 May – European Parliament resolution on the EU strategy for relations with Latin America

**EU Agenda**

**Council of the EU:** The next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and the General Affairs Council will take place on 14 June in Luxembourg and the European Council will meet on 17-18 June in Brussels. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in June:

- **Political and Security Committee:** 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 15, 22, 25, 28 and 29.
- **Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management:** 2, 7, 14, 16, 21, 23 and 30.
- **Working Party on Development Co-operation:** 3, 4, 7, 10 and 24.
- **Africa Working Party:** 3, 9, 16, 24 and 28.
- **Working Party on Human Rights:** 8-9.

**European Parliament:** The next full plenary session will take place from 14-17 June in Strasbourg. The following (sub-)committees will also meet in June:

- **Foreign Affairs:** 1-2, 10 and 22-23.
- **Development:** 2, 10 and 21.
- **Security and Defence:** 2-3 and 23-24.
- **Human Rights:** 2-3 and 23-24.
- **Women’s Rights and Gender Equality:** 22-23

**Click here** for more information about upcoming EU events.

On Wednesday 23 June, the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security and EPLO will co-organise a panel discussion on ‘Conflict Prevention and the European External Action Service (EEAS)’. For more information, please contact Ben Moore.
**Recent Publications:**
- *Georgia’s Conflicts: What role for the EU as mediator?* by Magdalena Frichova Grono (March 2010)
- *Governance in mining zones in North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo* by Jennifer Smith with Edward Bell (March 2010)

**Recent Events:**
- *Report* of the Workshop on improving democratic governance and state-society relations
- *Report* of the CSO training seminar on European Civil Society Advocacy on Women, Peace and Security, organised by EPLO in close co-operation with International Alert and other members of EPLO's Working Group on Gender Peace and Security (22-23 April 2010)

The Initiative for Peacebuilding is a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the European Commission. It draws together the expertise of 10 civil society organisations and their networks to develop and promote international knowledge and expertise in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. For more information about the Initiative for Peacebuilding, please visit the [website](#) or contact Herta Eckert.

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**EPLO Member Organisations’ News, Publications & Training Courses**

**Jobs and Internships:**

**Conciliation Resources**
- West Africa Programme Director, London (Deadline: 14 June)
- Executive Assistant, London (Deadline: 16 June)

**International Alert**
- Consultant to design a new International Alert peacebuilding programme in the Horn of Africa

**International Crisis Group**
- Analyst - Indonesia
- Compensation & Benefits Specialist, Brussels
- Director of Africa Programme, Nairobi
- Senior Analyst - Gulf States

**Life & Peace Institute**
- Programme Advisor with a research profile, Uppsala (Deadline: 15 June)
- Programme Advisor, Uppsala (15 June)
- Programme Advisor, Uppsala (15 June)

**Nonviolent Peaceforce**
- Field team members

**Quaker Council for European Affairs**
- Programme Assistants, Brussels (11 June)

**Saferworld**
- Project Coordinator - Uganda (Deadline: 7 June)

**Search for Common Ground**
- Director of Information Technology, Washington DC
- Junior Grants Analyst, Brussels
- Manager of Grants and Budgets, Washington DC
- Programme Associate - Great Lakes, Kigali
- Project Director - Nigeria
- Project Director - Sudan
- Web and New Media Manager, Washington DC

Internships are available at:
- International Crisis Group
- Life & Peace Institute
- Nonviolent Peaceforce
- Search for Common Ground

For more job and internship information, please visit our [website](#).

**Publications and News:**

**EPLO**
- *Report* of the civil society consultation meeting on the EU and Somalia (5 March 2010)

**International Center for Transitional Justice**
- Transitions (June 2010)
- Publications on the Rome Statute Review Conference (May 2010)
- Mini-documentary: International Relations Meets International Justice (September 2009)

**International Crisis Group**
- CrisisWatch No. 82 (1 June 2010)

**Life & Peace Institute**
- Horn of Africa Bulletin (May 2010)

**Partners for Democratic Change International**
- Newsletter (Spring 2010)

**Saferworld**
- Saferworld Activity Report (March 2010)

**Search for Common Ground**
- Common Ground News Service (3-9 June 2010)

**Swisspeace**
- Debriefing Mediators to Learn from their Experiences by Simon J.A. Mason and Matthias Siegfried (2010)
- KOFF Newsletter (3 May 2010)

**Training Courses and Fellowship Programmes:**

Swisspeace: Political Division IV of the Swiss FDFA and the Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF) are organising a course on ‘Dealing with the Past’. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

EN.CPS–forumZFD: The Academy for Conflict Transformation continues to offer a variety of training seminars on peace throughout 2010. All 2-5 day seminars take place in Koningswinder near Bonn. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

**EN.CPS–PATRIR / International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC):** IPDTC 2010 Autumn Peace Academy: Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation & Post-war Stabilisation, Recovery and Reconciliation (18-22 October, Romania); Gender and Peacebuilding; Integrating Planning and Action in the Field (25-29 October, Romania). For more information, please contact [PATRIR](#) or visit the IPDTC [website](#).
EPLO is the platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks active in the field of peacebuilding, who share an interest in promoting sustainable peacebuilding policies among decision-makers in the European Union.

EPLO aims to influence the EU so it promotes and implements measures that lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently. EPLO wants the EU to recognise the crucial connection between peacebuilding, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development worldwide and the crucial role NGOs have to play in sustainable EU efforts for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and crisis management.

EPLO advances the interests of its members through common policy positions and consequently advocating for those common positions. EPLO disseminates information and promotes understanding of EU policies of concern to its members. The Office also builds solidarity and co-operation amongst its members and with other relevant NGO networks.

Finally, EPLO raises awareness about the contribution the EU should make to peacebuilding and the need to hold the EU accountable to its own political commitments of helping secure peace within and outside its borders.

EPLO welcomes applications from peacebuilding organisations. The next deadline for membership applications is mid-November 2010. Click here to download the application form.